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STATE FOR AF/W DENNISON/HEFLIN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/26/2018 TAGS: <u>MARR PREL MOPS NG</u>

SUBJECT: NIGER: HOST COUNTRY MILITARY DECLINES ACOTA

REF: A. NIAMEY 709 _B. STATE 71963

Classified By: Ambassador Bernadette M. Allen, Reasons: 1.4 a, b and d

11. (U) Following is an unofficial translation of the text of diplomatic note number 5795 that Embassy Niamey received today from the Government of Niger Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office of Defense Cooperation, dated 25 August 2008:

Quote. The Office of Military Cooperation in the Government of Niger (GON) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation presents is compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honor to request that it make known to the competent authorities in its country, that the next Nigerien contingent that will be deployed to the Cote D'Ivoire cannot participate in ACOTA training offered as U.S. military assistance for reasons independent of the wishes of the Nigerien military authorities.

The Office of Military Cooperation in Government of Niger Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation takes this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America assurances of its high consideration. End Quote.

12. (S/NF) The reason behind the diplomatic note is unclear, given the Embassy had advised the GON Ministry of Defense in July that the USG had suspended (per reftel B) all State-funded/Title 22 activities (e.g., ACOTA) in Niger. ALLEN